

# MOAPA VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT

## MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 5, 2023      Location: MVFD Headquarters

Board Members	Joseph Davis (Chairman), Gene Houston (Vice Chairman), Chance Munford, Adam Smith, Judy Metz, Josh Jensen, Anthony Rivera.
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### I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Joe Davis call's the meeting to order
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Conformance with the Open Meeting Law
- D. Roll Call/Introduction
  - 1) Board Members:
    - a) Joe Davis, Chairman
    - b) Gene Houston, Vice-Chairman
    - c) Judy Metz, Board Member
    - d) Adam Smith, Board Member (Absent)
    - e) Chance Munford, Board Member
    - f) Josh Jensen, Board Member
    - g) Anthony Rivera, Board Member (Absent)
  - 2) Additional Representatives/Guests:
    - a) MVFD Chief Stephen Neel
    - b) MVFD Executive Assistant Samantha Empey
- E. Discussion & Possible Action: Adoption of the agenda as posted.  
Judy Metz motions to adopt, Josh Jensen seconds the motion. All in favor,  
none opposed. Motion was passed.

### II. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. (none)

### III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

- A. Discussion & Possible Action: **Approval of June 2023 minutes:**  
Judy Metz motions to approve minutes from June 5, 2023 meeting. Gene Houston seconds the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion was passed.

### IV. GENERAL BUSINESS

- A. Discussion & Possible Action: **Ratify the submission of FY22 SAFER Grant in the amount of \$378,672.63 to hire full-time Assistant Chief. Authorize the Fire Chief to sign the application and certified assurances; authorize the Fire Chief to sign award documents; and accept any funds awarded.**

Chief Stephen Neel begins the discussion; For the last couple of years, Moapa Valley Fire District has been trying to hire a

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full-time paramedic. Discussions with Commissioner Marilyn Kirkpatrick brought up concerns regarding the union, so the second option was to hire an Assistant Chief, which would not be part of a union and whose primary duties would be to respond to medical calls on the weekends. This information was written into a grant application that resulted in a one out of eight approval for Moapa Valley Fire District. This grant has a complex review and scoring process. Based on the score received, the grant application then goes into a peer review, and then a technical review where FEMA determines who will receive the grant funds. Moapa Valley Fire District was one of eight applicants across the United States that was chosen to receive the funds requested. The grant will cover three years salary and benefits for the Assistant Chief position. Being a grant funded position, there have been concerns about what will happen after three years; Chief Neel said a goal is to continue to find grants to pay for the position as more funds are secured through other sources of revenue, excluding C-Tax funds. Chief Neel discusses different sources of revenue which include GEMT funding and Medicaid Transports that brought in \$125,000, EMS transports brings in about \$100,000, Wildland revenue has ranged from \$500,000 to \$850,000 over the past 3 years and a contract with Moapa Valley Tribal which is \$50,000 per year. If one or more revenue sources are lost, there are still other sources to pull from before using C-Tax revenue. Chief Neel expressed his optimism about being able to fund the position long term, but will ultimately be at the discretion of the board to continue to fund the position after three years. In addition, another FEMA SAFER grant in the amount of \$544,664.32 for recruitment and retention was also awarded on Friday, September 1, 2023 that will cover about \$175,000 per year of expenses already being used yearly for physicals, stipends, Executive Assistant salary, turnouts for new volunteers, and other yearly expenses. The total funds received through grants in the last six months totals \$1.6 million. Chief Neel goes on to express why the Assistant Chief position is desperately needed and the Moapa Valley community deserves to have around the clock Advanced Life Support.

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Judy Metz asked if there would be any guarantee that the grant would be available in the future, and how long has this grant been available.

Chief Neel answers that it is not guaranteed but there is no reason why MVFD would not be able to apply for it again in the future. The grant has been available for over fifteen years at least and there is no waiting period between grant applications.

Chair Davis comments that there is potential to obtain the grant again, but there is the concern for the board in regards to voting to keep the position funded after the three years regardless of having grant funds or not. The goal is not to hire and spend the time and funds on training to lose the position after three years. He also asks Chief Neel how soon the position can be filled and trained.

Chief Neel continues; February is when the performance period starts for the grant which is when the position will be officially hired. After that, it will take about two to three months for the new hire to be properly trained.

Gene Houston asks if Chief Neel has anyone in mind for the Assistant Chief position.

Chief Neel answers no. He does not want to come into this process with a preconceived mindset and will fairly offer the position up to any qualified candidate and choose the person best fit for the job.

A few board members had questions regarding the job description that will be on the agenda for a future board meeting for discussion and possible action.

Public Comment: Vernon Robison asks why this grant has never been applied for before.

Chief Neel answers that because MVFD was a part of CCFD, We were told we could not apply for our own grants.

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Chair Davis comments that Chief Neel has been an incredible asset and very aggressive in the effort to track down and receive grant funding.

Judy Metz motions to approve and Ratify the submission of FY22 SAFER Grant in the amount of \$378,672.63 to hire full-time Assistant Chief. Authorize the Fire Chief to sign the application and certified assurances; authorize the Fire Chief to sign award documents; and accept any funds awarded on behalf of Moapa Valley Fire District. Gene Houston seconds the motion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion was passed.

## B. Discussion & Possible Action: **Increase District PERS contribution for Stephen Neel to offset 6% pay cut to cover increase in PERS**

Chief Neel begins that since it is supposed 100% employer paid he was caught off guard when PERS called and said that they forgot to deduct from his paycheck for the PERS increase. 3 years ago, Chief Neels starting pay was \$85,000 which was increased to \$90,000 during an evaluation by the board last year. This amount is still less than any other Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, or captains make in Clark County and surrounding areas. With the cost of the PERS increase, this brings it back down and Chief Neel asks the board to approve a salary increase to offset that percentage. During a discussion with Commissioner Marilyn Kirkpatrick, it was brought up that things need to be fair across the board seeing as all other PERS members only received a 3% increase and it would not be fair for Chief Neel to get 6%. Chief Neel then argued that things are not fair across the board since he makes significantly less than others mentioned before. Commissioner Kirkpatrick agreed with Chief Neels argument and made the observation that Chief Neel now has multiple other certifications qualifying him to be aligned with other Fire Chiefs in the Clark County and surrounding areas and said that it would be at the discretion of the board to increase his salary as they choose.

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Chair Davis comments about being confused with the 100% employer paid. There should be no loss of wages if this is the case. He asked Chief Neel to research and clarify before they can vote on this agenda item.

This agenda item will need to be tabled until the next board meeting with a change in wording.

### V. FINANCES

#### A. *Discussion & Review*: Discussion of FY24 budget.

- Fiscal year 2023 ended with \$1.1 million with a net increase of \$35,000.
- \$350,000 in capital outlay which will be for radio upgrades.
- Since it is the beginning of the fiscal year there is not much else to report on.

### VI. COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

#### A. (NONE)

### VII. REPORTS

#### A. Chief Stephen Neel

- Today, September 5th, Moapa Valley Fire District delivered five Stop The Bleed kits to every classroom at Moapa Valley High School and Mack Lyon Middle School. On Thursday, September 8th we will deliver five for every classroom to Grant Bowler Elementary and on Tuesday, September 12th, we will deliver five for every classroom to Ute Perkins Elementary School. This was possible with the grant we received for Public Health Emergency Preparedness from FEMA.
- Still working on CDBG grants. We've done the planning for our new rescue, just waiting for the chassis.
- Waiting for the new gurney and stair chairs to arrive.
- Received a new monitor for Rescue 73.
- Fire Academy is still in progress and going well.
- In January we will start a new Basic EMT class.
- Still working on radios.

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B. Moapa Station 72 Chief Stephen Neel

- Assistant Chief Adam Smith has been doing great with heading up the Fire Academy.
- Kasen Kolhoss donated \$10,000 to Moapa Valley Fire District and the funds went towards a forcible entry door which has been really good for training purposes.

C. Logandale Station 73 Chief Neel

- Assistant Chief Anthony Rivera will start with a new group of Fire Explorers starting this month or next.
- There are a lot of new members that will be starting with station 73 in the coming months.

D. Overton Station 74 Assistant Chief Chance Munford

- Continually staffed everyday. All members have been putting in their share of time.
- EMS and Fire training have had good participation and attendance.
- Has been helping teach in the Fire Academy.
- Starting Paramedic school on Monday, September 11th.

E. Board Member Report and General Comments:

- Chair Davis asks about incidents where there are requests for ALS support and there has been no response. How can that be prevented? Chief Neel responds by saying that a lot of the time when a request is made for more support, volunteers will show up to help without announcing on the radio that they are enroute. The radio traffic does not always reflect all that is happening on scene.

### *VIII. SETTING OF NEXT MEETING*

A. The next quarterly meeting day and time is scheduled for Monday December 4, 2023 at 6:00pm. However, an emergency meeting is needed to discuss time sensitive items that were tabled during this meeting.

B. Next meeting is set for:

**To be determined in September 2023 @6:00 p.m. MVFD Headquarters. 3570 Lyman St, Logandale, NV 89021.**

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## ***IX. ADJOURNMENT***

- A. Chair Davis motions to adjourn, Judy Metz seconds; all in favor, none opposed. Motion was passed.